

UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

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To the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives

The purpose of this letter is to report on the status of budget authority that was proposed for rescission, but for which Congress failed to pass a rescission bill as defined in section 1011(3) of the Impoundment Control Act.

In his fourteenth special message for fiscal year 1982, dated June 23, 1982, the President proposed the rescission of \$8 million in budget authority that had been appropriated to the Office of the Federal Inspector for the Alaska Natural Gas Transportation System (rescission proposal R82-27). Section 1012(b) of the Impoundment Control Act requires that funds proposed for rescission be made available for obligation unless Congress completes action on a rescission bill within the 45-day period of continuous session following the day such proposal is received by Congress. For rescission proposal R82-27, the 45-day period ended on August 17, 1982, without Congress having passed such a bill.

We have confirmed that the subject budget authority was apportioned by the Office of Management and Budget on August 26, 1982. An OMB official advised us that the delay in releasing the funds was due to administrative oversight.

> Harry H Can In Harry R. Van Cleve Acting General Counsel

